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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/892,749	06/28/2001	Ikuo Sasazaki	826.1732	3645
21171	7590	09/27/2007		
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER PESIN, BORIS M	
			ART UNIT 2174	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/27/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/892,749

Applicant(s)

SASAZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Boris Pesin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 9-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 9-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This communication is responsive the amendment filed 7/10/2007.

Claims 1-4 and 9-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 are independent claims. In the amendment filed 7/10/2007, Claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 were amended. This action is made Non-Final.

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/10/2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-4 and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Independent claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 were amended to include the limitation "each of the utterance objects including data and a procedure." There is no support for this limitation in the specification as filed. On page 2 of the specification, the Applicant discloses, "An object usually has data and a procedure (method) for the data and can also have link information with other objects." However, the Applicant does not indicate that an utterance object has data and a procedure. Furthermore, there is evidence in the specification that the Applicant distinguishes between an object and an utterance object. For instance, the last paragraph of Page 2 states, "An object of utterance is managed by an object ID..." Here, the Applicant has clearly distinguished between an object and a utterance object.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1, 2 and 9 – 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoof, II (US 5440624) in view of Towell (US 6052680) further in view of Roberts (US 6601055).

In regards to claim 1, Schoof teaches an apparatus, comprising: a storage unit storing information about a discussion at an electronic conference, the information including respective utterance objects of respective speakers in the discussion ("transcription and digital storage of a complete record of the conference", Column 3, Line 17). Schoof does not specifically teach a judgment unit calculating one of a number of speakers in the discussion, a number of utterance objects in the discussion, a depth of a tree structure of the information stored about the discussion and a data amount of the information stored about the discussion as an index of an amount of the information stored about the discussion and said judgment unit deciding to hold a face-to-face conference if the index exceeds a specific value.

Towell teaches, "In the following, an exemplary system for determining whether to route an incoming e-mail to a rule-based system for responding to a product inquiry and/or a rule-based system for scheduling a meeting is described. Referring to FIG. 2, in this exemplary system, the message preprocessing process 260 is a text to word list translation process (see, e.g., the process 600 of FIG. 6), the relevance determination process 280 is a process for determining a cosine distance (see, e.g., steps 502, 504 and 506 of FIG. 5) between an m-dimensional vector based on a preprocessed message and an m-dimensional vector based on a word list which characterizes a decision system, the decision system 1 process 220a is a rule-based decision process

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for scheduling a meeting, the decision system N process 220b is a rule-based decision process for responding to a product information request, the input/output interface process(es) 230 includes a SCSI adapter, the decision parameter(s) storage area 270 includes a predetermined threshold value between zero (0) and one (1), the firm data storage area 250 contains product information, and the user data storage area includes data regarding a salesperson's work schedule, times when he or she will be in the office, and a rank ordered list of others which will handle the salespersons e-mail in their absence." (Column 8, Lines 5-27). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Schoof with the teachings of Towell and include a rule based system to schedule a meeting when certain criteria is met with the motivation to provide the user with a simple method of scheduling a meeting when appropriate.

Schoof and Towell do not specifically teach that words are utterance objects, which include data and a procedure. Roberts teaches that words can be utterance objects which include data and a procedure (i.e. "the invention comprising the steps of waiting for an utterance from a user; constructing an input object from the utterance, the input object identifying a modality, a sequence, and a content of the utterance; inserting the input object into an input stream; sending the input stream to a knowledge representation module; and parsing and encoding the input object in the knowledge representation module into an abstract statement." Column 4, Lines 60-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Schoof and Towell with the teachings of Roberts and include utterance objects

with the motivation to facilitate the application design and provide for easier encapsulation, modularity and code reuse.

In regards to claim 2, Schoof-Towell-Roberts teach all the limitations of claim 1. Towell further teaches an apparatus further comprising a notification unit notifying participants of the electronic conference of a holding of the face-to-face conference if said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference. (Figures 11-13).

Claims 9-13 are similar in scope to claim 1; therefore they are rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoof-Towell-Roberts in view of Garback et al. (US 5237499).

In regards to claim 3, Schoof-Towell-Roberts teach all the limitations of claim 2. They do not teach an apparatus further comprising a reservation unit making reservations for facilities needed to hold the face-to-face conference if said judgment unit determines to hold the face-to-face conference, said notification unit notifies expected participants of information about reserved facilities. Garback teaches a method wherein, "The CPU is programmed to select an individual group member itinerary for the specific venue which includes specific airline flights, and if necessary, specific hotel accommodations and specific rental car services." (Abstract, Line 14). Garback further teaches, "A response message, such as is illustrated in FIG. 4, is formatted in step 69 to be returned to the individual group member traveler." (Column 7, Line 15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

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invention to modify Schoof-Towell-Roberts with teachings of Garback to include a method of reserving facilities needed to hold meetings with the motivation to provide a convenient process of organizing the facilities to host a meeting.

In regards to claim 4, Schoof-Towell-Roberts and Garback teach all the limitations of claim 3. Garback further teaches apparatus wherein said reservation unit makes reservations for transportation needed for the expected participants to participate at the face-to-face conference ("The CPU is programmed to select an individual group member itinerary for the specific venue which includes specific airline flights, and if necessary, specific hotel accommodations and specific rental car services." Abstract, Line 14); and said notification unit notifies the expected participants of information about reserved transportation. ("A response message, such as is illustrated in FIG. 4, is formatted in step 69 to be returned to the individual group member traveler." Column 7, Line 15).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4 and 9-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boris Pesin whose telephone number is (571) 272-4070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday except every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BP

Kristine Kincaid

KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100